

Message Text

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51

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

FDRE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 L-03 H-03 EB-11 IGA-02

SCSE-00 SCA-01 IO-14 OMB-01 AGR-20 DRC-01 /207 W

----- 005509

O 141945Z DEC 73 ZFF6

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3958

INFO USINT ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATEG

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

DOD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TUNIS 6956

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWELX, TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIAN FLOODS - SITREP NO 3

FOR DIASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR

CINCEUR FOR FOREIGN DIASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR LTC

R. KIMBALL

1. DIASTER COORDINATOR GERARD, ACCOMPANIED BY TUNISIAN SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE MOHAMED GHEDIRA, RETURNED TO TUNIS AT 1645 LOCAL TIME FOLLOWING AIR RECONNAISSANCE OF FLOOD-STRICKEN AREAS. IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION ALREADY REPORTED CONCERNING GAFSA, GABES (SEE SITREP 2), RECONNAISSANCE OF KAIROUAN, SOUSSE AND SOUTH TUNIS GOVERNORATES REVEALS EXTENSIVE FLOODING OVER WIDE AREAS, MOST ROADS CUT AND SEVERAL VILLAGES FLOODED AND/OR ISOLATED. GOVERNOR OF KAIROUAN
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REPORTED NO ELECTRICITY AND BREAD IN THE CITY WITH WATER

SUPPLIES DANGEROUSLY LOW. SITUATION, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE IMPROVING AND BOTH TUNISIAN OFFICIALS AND AMERICAN OBSERVERS AGREE THAT EXTENT OF DIASTER NOT RPT NOT AS GREAT AS THAT OF 1969. NONETHELESS, ALL CONCLUDED THAT PRESENT SITUATION REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.

2. TWO CH-46, ONE CH-53 FROM 32 MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT (COL. R.DIRAUI

COMMANDER) ARRIVED 1615 LOCAL TIME AT TUNIS-CARTHAGE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. ONE NAVAL CH-46 HELICOPTER ARRIVED 1745 LOCAL TIME AT SAME FIELD. ALL CRAFT LOADED WITH SUPPLIES DEPARTED 20:10 LOCAL TIME FOR MONASTIR-SOUSSE AREA, WHICH WILL BE CENTER FOR THEIR OPERATIONS. TWO OF THESE HELICOPTERS WILL ALSO BE SENT TO GABES AREA TOMORROW WITH SUPPLIES FOR THAT REGION. APEM COL. FITCH HAS REQUESTED IWO JIMA PROCEED SOUSSE AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE SUPPORT AS WELL AS BACKSTOP AIRCRAFT. THIS REQUEST SUPERSEDES EMBASSY'S EARLIER DECISION TO TURN BACK IWO JIMA (SEE SITREP 2). AT PRESENT, BEST CURRENT ESTIMATE IS TWO-TO THREE-DAY OPERATION FOR U.S. AIRCRAFT.

4. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE CURRENTLY INCLUDES THREE ITALIAN HELICOPTERS WHICH ARRIVED EARLY MORNING DEC 14. ALSO ONE FRENCH FIXED WING TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WORKING OUT OF TUNIS AIRPORT AND FRENCH HELICOPTER CARRIER EXPECTED ARRIVE MORNING DEC 15. DESPITE EARLY REPORTS OF LIBYAN HELICOPTER CONTRIBUTION, EMBASSY HAS NO CORROBORATING EVIDENCE THUS FAR.

5. GOT OFFICIALS CONTINUE BELIEVE IN-COUNTRY FOOD SUPPLIES ARE CURRENTLY ADEQUATE AND THEY DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY REQUEST FOR PL-480 FOOD.

6. AT PRESENT WE UNABLE PROVIDE ESTIMATE OF TOTAL U.S. AID REQUIRED, BUT EVERY EFFORT BEING MADE TO STAY WITHIN \$25,000 ORIGINALLY ALLOCATED.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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